

Charter of the  
State

the charter granted by his Majesty Charles the First, to Cæcilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore.

Right of Reform.

ART. 4. That all persons invested with the Legislative or Executive powers of government, are the trustees of the public, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old or establish a new government. The doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind

Right of Suffrage.

ART. 5. That the right of the people to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free government; for this purpose elections ought to be free and frequent, and every free white male citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.

Separation of the  
Departments of  
Government

2 Md 341.  
do 429  
10 Md 478.  
15 Md. 376

ART. 6. That the legislative, executive and judicial powers of government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other; and no person exercising the functions of one of said departments, shall assume or discharge the duties of any other.

Suspension of  
Laws

ART. 7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, unless by or derived from the Legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

Freedom of  
Speech

ART. 8. That freedom of speech and debate or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any court of judicature.

Seat of Govern-  
ment

ART. 9. That Annapolis be the place for the meeting of the Legislature; and the Legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

Meeting of Legis-  
lature

ART. 10. That for the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

Right of Petition.

ART. 11. That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceable and orderly manner.

Levying of Taxes.

ART. 12. That no aid, charge, tax, burthen, or fees, ought to be rated or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the Legislature.

Poll Taxes oppres-  
sive.

ART. 13. That the levying of taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive, and ought to be abolished; that pau-